

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Raymond R. Ferrera, Esq on 8/31/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

The Abstract and its Title have replaced as given below:

Abstract

According to a first aspect, the present invention relates to a device for depositing a high temperature superconductor onto a substrate in vacuum comprising a refilling device for containing a stock of high temperature superconductor material, an evaporation device, that evaporates the high temperature superconductor material within an evaporation zone by means of an energy transferring medium, and a conveyor that transports the high temperature superconductor material continuously from the refilling device to the evaporation zone in such a way that the high temperature superconductor material delivered into the evaporation zone is evaporated essentially without residues. According to a further aspect, the present invention relates to a method to evaporate a high temperature superconductor coating onto a substrate in vacuum, comprising the steps of continuous delivery of granular high temperature

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superconductor material into an evaporation zone and the operation of a beam of an energy transferring medium, so that the delivered granulate is evaporated in the evaporation zone essentially without residues.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of invention of Group I (claims 1-22) in the reply filed on 5/28/09 is acknowledged. Applicant's argument that amended claim 23 now includes claim 1 limitation i.e. heating of a high temperature superconductor material with two different energies at two different locations, and no longer refers to the grain size, and therefore claim 23 does not constitute an independent and distinct invention, is found persuasive. Accordingly, the restriction requirement is removed and all pending claims 1-23 have been examined.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-23 allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 23 – Closest prior art (Hill et al – DE 2513813) do not teach claims' limitation “pre-heat the high-temperature superconductor material in a first part of the evaporation zone by a first energy of the beam of energy transferring medium and to evaporate the pre-heated high-temperature superconductor material in a second part of the evaporation zone by a second energy of the beam of energy transferring medium” in the context of remaining limitations of the claims.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RAKESH K. DHINGRA whose telephone number is (571)272-5959. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 -6:00 (Monday - Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Parviz Hassanzadeh can be reached on (571)-272-1435. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. K. D./
Examiner, Art Unit 1792

/Parviz Hassanzadeh/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1792